

REMARKS

New claims 17-31 have been added. Claims 1-31 are pending, with claims 1-8 and 10-16 being independent.

New claims 17-31 respectively depending from independent claims 1-8 and 10-16 have been added to recite further features of the present invention. It is submitted that new claims 17-31 are allowable over the prior art at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1-8 and 10-16 which are considered to be allowable over the prior art for the reasons discussed in the request for reconsideration of August 22, 2001.

Although dependent claims 17-31 are considered to be allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable independent claims 1-8 and 10-16, it is noted that these dependent claims also recite further features of the present invention which are not seen to be disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

For the reasons set forth above and in the request for reconsideration of August 22, 2001, it is submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been overcome, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an action of a favorable nature are respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees,

to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus,
LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.37136X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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